

What is claimed is:

1. A method for entering alphanumeric data into an user interface associated with an electronic device, the method comprising:

displaying with the user interface a plurality of alphanumeric characters having a first size;

accepting user input via the touch screen that functions to target one of the plurality of alphanumeric characters; and

displaying the targeted alphanumeric character with a second size where the second size is larger than the first size.

2. The method according to claim 1 further comprising targeting only one of the plurality of alphanumeric characters when the user input comprises a physical contact with the touch screen that overlays a plurality of the alphanumeric characters.

3. The method according to claim 2 wherein the alphanumeric characters are initially displayed on the touch screen display smaller than a tip of a typical human finger such that touching the display screen would otherwise overlaid and thus identify a plurality of the alphanumeric characters.

4. The method according to claim 1 wherein the first size is selected to permit simultaneous viewing of all of the alphanumeric characters.

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein the second size is selected to allow the targeted alphanumeric character to be at least partially viewable under a pointer used to provide user input via the touch screen.

6. The method according to claim 1 further including the step of displaying the targeted alphanumeric character in a color that differs from the color of non-targeted alphanumeric characters.

7. The method according to claim 1 further comprising accepting user input to select the targeted alphanumeric character for use in connection with an operation to be performed by the electronic device.

8. The method according to claim 7 wherein the operation comprises a database search.

9. The method according to claim 7 wherein the user input to select the targeted alphanumeric character comprises a removal of a pointer from the touch screen display.

10. The method according to claim 7 wherein the user input to select the targeted alphanumeric character comprises an additional touching of a pointer to the touch screen display.

11. The method according to claim 1 further comprising displaying alphanumeric characters adjacent to the targeted alphanumeric character with a third size that is larger than the first size and smaller than the second size.

12. The method according to claim 1 further comprising displaying the alphanumeric characters using a QWERTY keyboard metaphor.

13. A method for providing a user with the ability to enter data into an electronic device having a touch screen display displaying a graphical user interface and permitting the user to control the operation of the electronic device via the graphical user interface by making physical contact with the touch screen, the method comprising:

displaying a plurality of alphanumeric characters on the graphical user interface; and

displaying in a graphical user interface field that is spatially removed from the alphanumeric characters one of the alphanumeric characters determined to be a target of the physical contact with the touch screen display when the physical contact on the touch screen display overlays a plurality of the alphanumeric characters.

14. The method according to claim 13 wherein the alphanumeric characters are initially displayed on the touch screen display smaller than a tip of a typical human finger such that touching the display screen would otherwise overlaid and thus identify a plurality of the alphanumeric characters.

15. The method according to claim 13 wherein the alphanumeric characters are displayed using a size selected to permit simultaneous viewing of all of the alphanumeric characters within the touch screen display.

16. The method according to claim 13 further comprising accepting user input to select the targeted alphanumeric character for use in connection with an operation to be performed by the electronic device.

17. The method according to claim 16 wherein the field in which the targeted alphanumeric character is displayed is used in connection with the operation to be performed by the electronic device.

18. The method according to claim 17 wherein the operation comprises a database search.

19. The method according to claim 16 wherein the user input to select the targeted alphanumeric character comprises a removal of the physical contact from the touch screen display.

20. The method according to claim 16 wherein the user input to select the targeted alphanumeric character comprises an additional physical contact with the touch screen display.

21. A method for selecting alphanumeric characters to be entered into an electronic device having a touch screen display which provides a user with an ability to control the operation of the electronic device by physically contacting the touch screen display, the method comprising:

displaying the alphanumeric characters on the touch screen display;

displaying all of the characters in a first size when no physical contact is made with the touch screen display; and

displaying a one of the alphanumeric characters determined to be a target of physical contact with the touch screen display in a second size.

22. The method according to claim 21 further comprising entering the targeted alphanumeric character into the electronic device to cause the electronic device to perform an action when the physical contact is removed from the touch screen display.

23. The method according to claim 21 further comprising displaying alphanumeric characters adjacent to the targeted alphanumeric character with a third size that is larger than the first size and smaller than the second size.

24. The method according to claim 21 further comprising displaying the targeted alphanumeric character in a color that differs from a color of adjacently displayed alphanumeric characters.